

MINUTES

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INVENTORY & MONITORING NETWORK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting

1:00-5:00pm MT, January 14, 2004

Members Participating

Dan Licht (lead) – Network I&M Coordinator
Phyllis Adams – Regional I&M Coordinator
Brian Kenner – Badlands NP
Jim Cheatham – Devils Tower NM
George Helfrich (on behalf of Ted Benson) – Fort Laramie NHS
John Moeykens - Knife River Indian Villages NHS
Wayne Werkmeister – Missouri NRR
Duane Bubac (on behalf of Eric Nelson) – Mt. Rushmore NMEM
Carmen Blausey – Niobrara NSR
Bob Manasek – Scotts Bluff NM
Penny Knuckles – Theodore Roosevelt NP

Members Absent

Ruthann Knudson – Agate Fossil Beds NM
Andy Banta – Fort Union Trading Post NHS
Todd Suess – Jewel Cave NM
Dan Roddy – Wind Cave NP

Also in Attendance

Cody Wienk – Northern Great Plains FirePro
Doug Alexander – Northern Great Plains FirePro
Chad Prosser – Northern Great Plains EPMT
Taryn Flesjer – Northern Great Plains EPMT
Amy Symstad – USGS Biological Resources Division
Marcia Wilson – Northern Great Plains I&M Program
Gary Willson – Great Plains CESU
(other people participated via conference call – see agenda below)

Meeting Purpose and Background

The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual I&M and NEKOTA meetings and with the Regional Director's zone meeting. The agenda for the Technical Committee meeting was:

1:00pm	Intro	Licht
1:10pm	FY04 Projects and Remote Imagery	Budde (remote)
1:35pm	NatureBib	Schumacher (remote)
2:00pm	Air Quality Monitoring	Pohlman (remote)
2:30pm	NPSpecies	Wilson
2:45pm	Water Quality Monitoring	Troelstrup (remote)
3:00pm	Break	
3:15pm	Vegetation Monitoring	Symstad
4:00pm	I&M and Fire Effects	Wienk
4:20pm	Science Advisory Board	Licht

Meeting Minutes

Licht facilitated the meeting. Remote speakers had supplied graphic information beforehand that that was displayed as appropriate.

Budde joined the meeting via speaker phone. He described how he had been asked by Licht to collect data on remote imagery needs for the small parks in the Network and to recommend what imagery to acquire. The parks in question were; Devils Tower NM, Fort Laramie NHS, Fort Union Trading Post NHS, Jewel Cave NM, Knife River Indian Villages NHS, Mount Rushmore NMEM, and Scotts Bluff NM (Agate Fossil Beds NM had recently acquired imagery and didn't feel they needed more at this time). Budde stated that he had contacted the above-mentioned parks for baseline information. Having heard from the parks on what they currently had and what they needed, Budde recommended that IKONOS "Pro" imagery be acquired. He recommended that both panchromatic and multi-spectral imagery be acquired. Based on input from parks he based his cost estimates on a five mile buffer. The total cost to acquire such imagery for the above-mentioned parks was \$80,388. (Budde used 3 graphics which are in the NGPN files.)

After Budde hung up there was discussion about how to proceed. Licht stated that there was probably only \$50-65,000 available in the I&M Program, but he wanted to look at the budget one more time. Moeykens recommended that the buffer around the parks be reduced to 3 miles and an analysis be done to see if that reduced the cost to within the available funds. Licht said he would look into it and get back to the Technical Committee before a final decision was made.

Schumacher joined the meeting via speaker phone. She described the status of NatureBib, and described how it differed from a catalog that libraries use to track

holdings. She stated that existing park libraries would probably be best tracked using Procite if that's what they were currently using. She recommends that parks use Procite if they had the hard copies of the documents at their park and were willing to share the holdings with others. If a park did not want to share their holdings then she recommended the park enter the documents into NatureBib. (Schumacher's Powerpoint presentation is in the NGPN files)

Pohlman joined the meeting via speaker phone. He described the air quality report he was working on for the NGPN. He said the report would have lots of baseline air quality and air monitoring information, but would stop short of making recommendations. He stated that a component of the report would be a list of plants sensitive to ozone. In response to a question he stated that it was his impression that lichens were not a good indicator of airborne pollutants. He said he anticipated the air quality report being done in the very near future. He stated that he could continue to work with the Network as it developed the air quality monitoring component of the Vital Signs program (Pohlman's Powerpoint presentation is in the NGPN files.)

Wilson gave an overview of NPSpecies, with emphasis on the status of the data for the NGPN. She described the certification process for NPSpecies data. She gave a list of which individuals currently had rights to the NGPN data in the online version of NPSpecies (Wilson's Powerpoint presentation is in the NGPN files.)

Troelstrup joined the meeting via speaker phone. He introduced himself to all the participants and briefly went over his approach to developing the water quality component of the Vital Signs program. He stated that he and his graduate student hoped to visit each park this spring, and to collect data up to three times at each park this year. He stated that he would be the primary author of the report that would be provided to the NGPN.

Symstad described her efforts to date to develop a "straw dog" for vegetation monitoring. She stated that she had focused so far only on ecosystem health monitoring, and was waiting for more input from the parks in regards to more park-specific needs (e.g., monitoring for rare plants). She described the efforts to integrate the Vital Signs monitoring objectives with the Fire Effects monitoring program. She stated that a systematic approach of visiting a plot every third year might meet both the I&M Program needs and the Fire Effect needs. She stated that stratifying by physiographic features was better than by vegetation, which could change over time. (Symstad's Powerpoint presentation is in the NGPN files.)

Wienk described in more detail the efforts to date to coordinate and potentially integrate the I&M and Fire Effects monitoring programs. He discuss several options to integrate the programs administratively. Moeykens stated that he would really like to see a single vegetation monitoring crew at the park versus different crews from different programs. (Wienk's Powerpoint presentation is in the NGPN files.)

Licht recommended that since it was late in the day, and that he had recently been advised by Steve Fancy not to form a Science Advisory Board, that the agenda item be dismissed. The meeting was adjourned.

Followup

Licht will revisit the budget and coordinate with Budde in regards to acquiring the satellite imagery. He will contact the Technical Committee before a final decision is made. Licht sent out the meeting minutes for review on January 29, 2004.

Drafted by: Dan Licht

Drafted on: 1/16/2004

Finalized by: Dan Licht

Finalized on: 2/13/2004